

Appendix A

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Infarction: The formation of an infarct, an area of tissue death due to a local lack of oxygen.


For example, in a myocardial infarction there is death of myocardial (heart muscle) tissue due to sudden (acute) deprivation of circulating blood. This is usually caused by arteriosclerosis with narrowing of the coronary arteries, the culminating event being a thrombosis (clot).

Aside from designating the process of forming the infarct, infarction is synonymous with the infarct itself.

The word "infarction" comes from the Latin "infarcire" meaning "to plug up or cram." It refers to the clogging of the artery.

See also infarct.

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Appendix B

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Edema: The swelling of soft tissues as a result of excess water accumulation.

Edema is often more prominent in the lower legs and feet toward the end of the day as a result of pooling of fluid from the upright position maintained during the day. Upon awakening from sleeping, patients can have swelling around the eyes referred to as "**periorbital edema**."

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